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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RATA (New Zealand)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)
(Chairman)

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In the absence of Mr. Tshering, Mr. Rata (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (continued) (A/C.3/50/L.47/Rev.1)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/50/L.32, L.34, L.36, L.46, L.51/Rev.1, L.55, L.57, L.59, L.61/Rev.1 and L.62/Rev.1.

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Draft resolution A/C.3/L.62/Rev.1

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.62/Rev.1, entitled: "Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights".

2. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.62/Rev.1 on behalf of the European Union and the other sponsors, said that Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cape Verde, the Czech Republic, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Suriname and Ukraine had joined the sponsors. The text of the draft resolution had been revised in a number of places. The phrase "and to take urgent steps to seek increased extrabudgetary resources" had been added at the end of the third preambular paragraph. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the phrase "this request" in the first line had been changed to "these requests" and the word "those" in the last line had been changed to "all these". In the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "Recalling" had been changed to "Taking into account". In paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the phrase "having due regard to the need to finance and implement activities of the United Nations related to development" had been moved to the end of the paragraph after the word "questions." and the word "including" had been inserted after the word "system".

3. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.62/Rev.1 was the result of extensive consultations and reflected the general belief in the need to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights. The sponsors supported all initiatives aimed at optimizing the functioning of the Centre and the work of the High Commissioner in order to strengthen human rights activities and believed that the necessary human, financial and other resources must be provided to them. Accordingly, the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to make available additional resources to enhance their capability to carry out mandated operational activities and to coordinate efficiently with other relevant departments of the

United Nations system. It was hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that Argentina, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, on which action would be taken at a subsequent meeting.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.67

5. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.67, entitled "Situation of human rights in Rwanda".

6. Ms. BUCK (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.67, said that Cameroon, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia had joined the sponsors. A number of changes had been made in the text to reflect the negotiations on the draft resolution and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1017 (1995). Preambular paragraph 4 had been redrafted to read:

> "Noting the concerns of the Special Rapporteur as set out in his report of 28 June 1995 that the human rights situation is exacerbated by an insufficient system for the administration of justice, characterized by a shortage of both human and material means, and that there are threats and violence against the physical integrity of individuals, arrest, detention and treatment and conditions of detention, which do not conform with international standards,".

7. The fifth preambular paragraph had been deleted. A new paragraph had been inserted after the eighth preambular paragraph: "Recognizing the valuable contribution that the human rights officers deployed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Rwanda have made towards the improvement of the overall situation". The twelfth preambular paragraph had been amended to reflect the text of Security Council resolution 1017 (1995):

> "Recalling Security Council resolution 1017 (1995), in which the Council renewed the mandate of UNAMIR to exercise its good offices to assist in achieving the voluntary and safe repatriation of Rwandese refugees within the frame of reference of the recommendations of the Bujumbura Conference and the Cairo Summit of the Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region, and in promoting genuine national reconciliation, to assist the UNHCR and other international agencies in the provision of logistical support for the repatriation of refugees, to contribute, with the agreement of the Government of Rwanda to the protection of the International Tribunal for Rwanda as an interim measure until alternative arrangements agreed with the Government of Rwanda can be put in place,".

8. In the thirteenth preambular paragraph, the phrase "and other international staff" had been inserted after the word "organizations" in the third line. In paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the phrase "and other international staff" had been inserted after the word "organizations" in the third line. Paragraph 12 had been redrafted to read: "Notes with concern arrest, detention

and treatment and conditions of detention which do not conform to international standards, as set out in the report of the Special Rapporteur of 28 June 1995;". A new paragraph had been inserted after paragraph 12: "Further notes with concern that a situation of insecurity still exists, evidenced by reports of threats and violence against the physical integrity of individuals, which is sometimes exacerbated by incursions;". Lastly, paragraph 17 had been placed immediately before paragraph 13. All the paragraphs would then be renumbered accordingly.

9. The aim of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.67 was to call attention to the genocide that had taken place in Rwanda in 1994 and support the work of the International Tribunal for Rwanda. It stressed the fact that the international community must follow closely and support all efforts to ensure respect for human rights in Rwanda and welcomed the measures taken by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to put in place the human rights field operation in that country.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that Belgium, Cambodia, the Congo, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.67.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.32

11. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that Afghanistan wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

12. Ms. TAMLYN (United States) said that her delegation had requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution and would vote against it. Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution ignored the fact that many States welcomed the electoral assistance of the United Nations and other impartial observers. Also, paragraph 4 called for the provision of such assistance to be subject to elaborate preconditions such as Security Council approval, even in cases where the Governments concerned had actually requested assistance.

13. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Spain), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, on behalf of the European Union, said that the States of the European Union would oppose the draft resolution. The latter detracted from the efforts made by many States and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and other bodies, to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections. The European Union, which was fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, objected to any selective use of the Charter to justify limitations to the right to vote and to be elected.

14. Mr. COLOMA (Chile), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation would abstain; the text of the draft resolution was generally unclear and ambiguous, and paragraph 4 in particular could be interpreted as restricting the sovereignty of certain States by placing limits on their right to obtain electoral assistance from the United Nations.

15. At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Lesotho, Paraguay, Philippines, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

16. The draft resolution was adopted by 78 votes to 56, with 19 abstentions.

17. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation agreed with the representative of Chile concerning paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.32 and, for that reason, could not support it and had abstained in voting.

18. Mr. Tshering (Bhutan) took the Chair.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.34

19. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.34 entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity", which contained no

programme budget implications. He announced that Afghanistan, Cameroon, India, Lesotho and Yemen had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.34.

20. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Cuba) expressed gratitude to the more than 30 delegations that had sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.34 and said that, as a result of informal consultations, he wished to propose two amendments to that draft resolution. Firstly, he proposed that the words "in order" should be replaced by the words "taking into account the need" in the thirteenth preambular paragraph. Secondly, he proposed that paragraph 10 should be amended to read:

> "Requests the Commission on Human Rights to take into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity."

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended, without a vote.

22. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.34 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36

23. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36, entitled "Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and vital importance of family reunification", which he said had no budgetary implications.

24. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the words "against another State" in the second and third lines in paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36 should be deleted.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that a recorded vote had been requested for action on the draft resolution under consideration.

26. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Israel, Japan, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe.

27. The draft resolution was adopted by 75 votes to 4, with 74 abstentions.

28. Mr. COLOMA (Chile) said that while his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36, it regretted that the draft resolution had made no reference to the right to leave any country, including [one's] own, which was provided for in article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and constituted the legal and ethical basis for migration.

29. Mr. MENDEZ (Venezuela) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36 since it believed that respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and vital importance of family reunification promoted respect for human rights. However, with regard to legislation which affected the rights of legal migrants to send financial remittances to their countries of origin, his delegation wished to point out that there were currency controls, which had to be adjusted in keeping with economic measures in all countries, that affected national and foreign citizens alike.

30. Mr. MORGAN (Mexico) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36 since it regarded respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and vital importance of family reunification as an important factor in promoting human rights. However, with regard to paragraph 1 of that same draft resolution, his Government believed that freedom of movement was a right established under article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and applied to all people, including migrants.

31. Mr. SOAL (South Africa) said that draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36 concerned the right of migrant workers to send financial remittances to their countries of origin and to family reunification in the receiving country. Issues pertaining to migrant workers were governed by bilateral labour agreements which gave employers the right to recruit workers from abroad and allowed those workers to send part of their wages to their countries of origin. Migrant workers who had entered his country prior to 1963 were automatically exempted from the

requirement to possess a permanent residence permit, however, other migrant workers had an obligation to provide reasons why they should be exempted from permanent residence permit requirements. His delegation had abstained from voting on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.36 because, while there were provisions under South African law for legal migrants to send part of their wages home, there were limitations regarding permanent residence permits. His Government emphasized that its decision to abstain in the voting should in no way be interpreted as unwillingness to accommodate the needs of migrant workers and their families.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.55

32. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.55, entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", which he said contained no programme budget implications.

33. He announced that Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Gambia, India, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, San Marino, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, South Africa, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.55.

34. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following amendments had been proposed to draft resolution A/C.3/L.55. Firstly, it had been suggested that a new eighth preambular paragraph should be inserted to read: "Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights recognized that the processes of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law". Secondly, the words "to all without discrimination" should be inserted following the word "belief" in the third line of paragraph 2. Thirdly, the phrase "physical integrity and security of person" in paragraph 3 should be substituted by "with the liberty and security of person". Fourthly, the phrase "through the educational system and by other means" in paragraph 5 should be deleted. Finally, the words "in full and on time" at the end of paragraph 20 should be deleted.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote.

36. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.55 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.57

37. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications, and that Australia, Belgium, Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Paraguay and Solomon Islands wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.57 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.59

39. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications, and that the following countries had also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Afghanistan, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Guatemala, Mali, Mauritius, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nepal, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia and Solomon Islands.

40. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) read out some revisions to the draft resolution. In paragraph 2, the word "approved" should be deleted. In paragraph 9, after the words "the Electoral Assistance Division to" the following phrase should be added: "strengthen its collaboration with the Centre, including through an exchange of personnel when appropriate, and with the Department and the Programme,".

41. The CHAIRMAN said that Congo, Malta, Norway, the Russian Federation and Ukraine wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

42. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said his delegation would abstain in the voting for a substantive reason which would be explained in the plenary session of the General Assembly.

43. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.59.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

44. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.59 was adopted by 143 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.35

45. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, which he said had no programme budget implications. He announced that Andorra, Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino and the United States of America wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

46. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he wished to state his delegation's position with regard to draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.35. The draft resolution was an attempt by certain parties to politicize the Third Committee through the adoption of another biased resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Any General Assembly resolution should meet minimum standards of objectivity, relevance and validity and reflect current conditions. The draft resolution met none of those standards. The political motives of the sponsors were clearly demonstrated by the fact that the draft resolution was principally based on outdated and invalid information contained in the report of the former Special Representative. The annexes of the same report (E/CN.4/1995/55), containing responses and material provided by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had been completely ignored in the draft resolution.

47. With regard to the allegation that the Government was accountable for assassinations in the territory of other States, there was no substantiated evidence to support that outdated allegation, whereas Iranian diplomats had been subjected to atrocious acts of terrorism in some countries, and Western States condoned those attacks.

48. Although welcoming the invitations issued to United Nations representatives to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, the sponsors of the draft resolution had ignored the invitation extended to Mr. Ayala Lasso, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the close cooperation established with working groups of the Commission, including the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

49. Numerous allegations in the draft resolution were both hackneyed and outdated and failed to reflect recent developments. Other allegations were so vague, general and unfounded that they failed in any way to justify continued monitoring of the human rights situation in his country. Human rights and fundamental freedoms were guaranteed in law and in practice in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Government was well able to challenge those allegations and demonstrate their absurdity.

50. It was clear that the sponsors were dissatisfied with the contents of the most recent report of the Special Representative (A/50/661) since it did not provide any provocative material that could be exploited for political ends. Indeed, in his report, the Special Representative had said that he was not in a position to discuss questions of substance, but the sponsors had ignored that statement, determined as they were to maintain that continued international scrutiny of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran was warranted.

51. With regard to paragraph 5, the sponsors' stance appeared confused: under the constitutional laws of many countries, including some European States, as well as under the provisions of international law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Salman Rushdie had committed an offence. It was not only Iran which had reacted to the insult, but all Islamic countries: the Eighteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference had strongly condemned the book The Satanic Verses. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran saw a clear difference between its obligations under international law and its religious responsibilities.

52. For their own ulterior motives and political ends, the sponsors were willing to destroy the consensus that was so important to the reaching of mutual understanding. Among the sponsors there were those such as Israel, which were themselves the perpetrators of the most inhumane, gross, massive and systematic violations of human rights, copiously documented in United Nations reports that bore witness to their long history of continuing atrocities against the whole of mankind.

53. His delegation would vote against the draft resolution, and he called on Member States to reject the exploitation of human rights questions for political ends and to join him in voting against draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.35.

54. Mr. MESDOUA (Algeria), speaking in explanation of his delegation's position with regard to paragraph 5, said that freedom of expression and its corollary, freedom of artistic and intellectual production, were intended to promote the flowering of civilization and enrich the cultural heritage of mankind. Anything which promoted intolerance or produced unnecessary divisions between men violated the sanctity of belief, and other fundamental human rights must be respected as well as freedom of expression.

55. At the request of the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.35.

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia,

Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Albania, Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

56. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.35 was adopted by 74 votes to 26, with 49 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 107: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.21/Rev.1

57. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that, at its 60th meeting, held on 12 December 1995, the Economic and Social Council had taken note of the note by the Secretariat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/160 contained in document A/50/747-E/1995/126 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in document A/50/785-E/1995/128, and had referred them to the General Assembly for consideration.

58. The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.26/Rev.1

59. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolution had been revised after consultations. Consequently, the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.3/50/L.65 had been withdrawn by their sponsor. The revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

60. Bhutan, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Monaco, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Togo had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

61. Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany) said that it was his delegation's understanding of paragraph 12 of the draft resolution that it did not create the need for, nor

would it lead to, the establishment of a new item on the agenda of the General Assembly.

62. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.26/Rev.1 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.27

63. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications, and that Egypt had joined the sponsors.

64. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that at the beginning of paragraph 7, the word "Requests" had been changed to "Recommends".

65. In paragraph 8, the word "Establishes" had been replaced by the phrase "Requests the Secretary-General to convene"; the word "including" in the first line had been deleted, and, after the words "Expert Group", the words "meeting, with the participation of" had been added. In the second line, the word "regular" had been substituted for the words "advisory service". At the end of paragraph 8, the words "through normal channels" had been added between the words "for submission" and "to the General Assembly", and the words "through the Economic and Social Council" had been deleted.

66. In paragraph 9, the words "Recommends to" had been changed to "Requests", and the words "to include among the urgent issues in their respective agendas" had been replaced by the words "when addressing the issue of violence against women, to give particular attention to". At the end of paragraph 11, the words "with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure" had been added.

67. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that Belgium, the Marshall Islands, Pakistan and Portugal had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

68. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.27, as orally revised, was adopted.

69. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/50/346), the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/50/378), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, including the integration of older women in development (A/50/398), and the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/50/538). He suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of those documents.

70. It was so decided.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 107.

AGENDA ITEM 165: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.63

72. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

73. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the beginning of paragraph 1 had been amended to read: "Takes note with approval of the resolution regarding the amendment to article 20" and that paragraph 2 had been amended to read: "Urges States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached, as soon as possible, in order for the amendment to enter into force".

74. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted.

75. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/50/744). He suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of that document.

76. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.